AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (currently amended): A method of connecting a terminal fitting and an elastic wire, comprising the steps of:

providing a terminal fitting;

providing an electric wire;

providing a conductive connecting member formed with an insertion hole, the connecting member which includes an outer peripheral portion having a continuous cylindrical shape;

inserting the electric wire into the insertion hole of the connecting member;

compressing the outer peripheral portion of the connecting member radially inwardly so as to caulk an inserted portion of the electric wire uniformly over a whole periphery thereof; and thereafter

welding the connecting member and the terminal fitting by applying ultrasonic wave.

2.   (original): The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the connecting member is compressed and shaped by rotary swaging.

3.   (original): The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the connecting member includes a first hole portion and a second hole portion which is larger than the first hole in diameter;

wherein the electric wire has a core wire covered with an insulating sheath;

wherein the core wire is inserted in the first hole portion and the insulating sheath is

inserted in the second hole portion, and the first hole portion and the second hole portion are

disposed coaxially with each other; and

wherein the connecting member is compressed so that the insulating sheath is held in

intimate contact with the second hole portion.

4.   (previously presented): The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the terminal

fitting is provided with a clamping portion; and

further comprising the step of press-clamping the conductive connecting member by the

clamping portion.

5.   (canceled).

6.   (new): The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the connecting member

comprises a connecting cap having a large diameter portion and a small diameter portion.